



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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18 YEAR OLD MEXICAN WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SMUGGLING CHILD INTO THE U.S.

TUCSON, Ariz. – Aracely Ayala-Gomez, 18, of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced yesterday to 15 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release, by U.S. District Judge Raner C. Collins. Ayala-Gomez had pleaded guilty on June 19, 2007, to conspiring to transport illegal aliens.

On April 24, 2007, Ayala-Gomez presented herself for admission into the U.S. at the port of entry in Douglas, Arizona. She was accompanied by a four-year-old girl. Ayala-Gomez presented a laser visa card for the child to enter the U.S., but agents discovered that the laser visa did not belong to that child. Further investigation revealed that the little girl was a Mexican citizen and that Ayala-Gomez was to receive \$200 to smuggle the child into the U.S.

At the sentencing, Judge Collins noted that the offense occurred about two weeks after Ayala-Gomez's 18th birthday.

The investigation was conducted by Customs and Border Protection, Douglas, Ariz. of the Department of Homeland Security. The prosecution was handled by Cynthia R. Wood, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-0941
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-193(Ayala-Gomez)

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